THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Steel Authority of India Limited had filed an anti-dumping petition on the ground of dumping of steel plates by Germany, U.K and Italy. The petition was examined in accordance with the Customs Tariff (Identification, Assessment and Collection of Duty or Additional Duty on dumped articles and for determination of Injury) Rules, 1985 and it was found that there was no prima-facie evidence of dumping/injury. The above fact was intimated to the petitioner in March, 1994.

(b) There is no formal machinery for inter-ministerial consultations before import duty concessions are decided upon. However, wherever necessary, the concerned ministry is consulted or its views are taken into account.

(c) Anti-dumping petitions filed are being examined by the Designated Authority in the Ministry of Commerce in accordance with the provisions of Customs Tariff (Identification, Assessment and Collection of Duty or Additional Duty on Dumped Articles and for Determination of Injury) Rules, 1985.

Anti-dumping petitions received by the government are examined under the above Rules and in case of sufficient prima-facie evidence of dumping, injury and casual link between dumping and injury, an investigation is initiated and notified in the official gazette. The importers, exporters, and the government of the exporting countries concerned are informed and advised to make their views. Opportunity is also given to the parties concerned to present their views orally. Provisional findings thereafter are notified according to the Rules and informed to the parties concerned, advising them to make their views known. In the light of facts and information received, the final findings are determined and notified.

India Bangladesh Cooperation in Trade

735. SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Bangladesh desire to further increase industrial, trade and economic cooperation between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details of initiatives to be taken in this regard ;

(c) whether this will also strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries ; and

(d) if so, details thereof and if not, steps to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Both Governments hold frequent mutual consultation in this regard. Possible initiatives could be, inter-alia, extension of preferential trading arrangements within multilateral frameworks, promotion of Joint ventures, further encouragement to business level contacts including mutual participation in trade fairs and exchange of trade delegations, signing of bilateral agreement on mutual promotion and protection of investment, opening of border trade, and extension of transit facilities.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Increased industrial, trade and economic cooperation would result in greater integration of the two economics, thus strengthening bilateral relations.

Estimated production of Tea

736. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the estimated production of tea in the calendar year